

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.

The second meeting of the West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council was held in Building 6, Room 6A on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

The following members participated:

Kelley Goes, Chair
Jimmy Gianato
Elaine Harris
B. Keith Fulton (via phone)
Dr. Jan Fox
Jim Skidmore
Lee Fisher (via phone)
Michael Keleman (via phone)
Kyle Schafer, representing Secretary Rob Ferguson
Sonia Chambers
Mike Friloux (via phone)
Dr. Jack McClanahan, representing Dr. Steve Paine

Additional participants:

Sarah Smith
Byron Harris
Mark Polen
Jonathan Caldwell

After a quorum was established, Chair Goes welcomed the Council and called the meeting to order.

Business

Chair Goes asked for the approval of the minutes from the November meeting of the Broadband Deployment Council. The December meeting of the Council was cancelled, so November minutes still needed approval. The Council approved the minutes with no objection.

The next order of business was to give a summary to the Council on the pre-bid conference that took place on January 6, 2009. Chair Goes and Jimmy Gianato explained that the pre-bid conference was simply a question and answer style meeting and that a transcript of the Q&As would be distributed to those in attendance as well as to the Council.

Chair Goes also noted that there was still no update on the Legislative Rules. Next on the agenda was a discussion on the forming of a subcommittee to review the required written reports. It was decided that Kyle Schafer would chair the subcommittee. Also on the committee will be Chair Goes, Jimmy Gianato and Jan Fox, as a volunteer from the Council-at-Large. Kyle Schafer also noted that he would like to have John Dunlop from the Department of Administration to participate as well. Chair Goes noted that the subcommittee would provide updates to the Council of reports received.

The next item of business was a request for a letter of support from Les Shoemaker for the Visual Link project in Hampshire County. Sonia Chambers asked if there would be a protocol for requests for letters of support and asked what the Council would be willing to support or not support. Chair Goes stated that she thought it would be hard to have a general letter; that the requests for support will be increasing and would need to be on a case-by-case basis. She also stated that once work begins with the consultant, the Council would be better equipped to determine what we can and cannot support. Chair Goes indicated she would contact Mr. Shoemaker and start a letter bank.

Other Business

Chair Goes stated that the state is looking at bringing broadband into the definition of infrastructure and about it being included in President Obama's stimulus package.

Dr. Jan Fox inquired about Verizon's Fiber to the Home project at which time Chair Goes indicated that it would be part of the consultant's role to inform the Council about projects such as this.

Kyle Schafer suggested that Doug Robinson and Steve Fletcher be invited to present. Mike Friloux also suggested that Ted Deriso from the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative make a presentation to the Council. At this point, Chair Goes asked that anyone wanting to suggest a presenter should notify the Council so a formal invitation can be sent. Elaine Harris also suggested Debbie Goldman.

Sonia Chambers indicated to the Council that the report for the Healthcare Authority would be submitted to the Council by the first week of February.

Lee Fisher suggested that there needs to be a structure system laid out as to who will be dealing with the consultant on a day to day basis. Jan Fox then asked if the presentations could be collected and put on a website. Chair Goes indicated they would be put on a website, but whether it will be a function of the state or a function of the consultant is still being decided.

Chair Goes requested that Sarah Smith, Secretary/Treasurer of the Broadband Deployment Council provide a legislative update to the Council as to how legislation is impacting broadband deployment.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be noticed for February 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting location, call-in number and agenda will be provided prior to the meeting.

With no other business, Jimmy Gianato moved that the Council adjourn and Kyle Schafer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.